

Chapter Four

Analysis and Evaluation

Introduction

This chapter is comprised of three sections: an evaluation of the significance of the Mount Gilead property in accordance with the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places; a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions; and an integrity assessment. The evaluation of significance identifies the important historic associations of the property, as well as the value of the physical resources that survive to convey these associations. The Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) ties the property's significance to a discrete period of time in which the important contributions were made, and the historic contexts within which the property's significant associations may be placed.

Based upon this identification of the property's significance, and period during which it is significant, the CLR team prepared a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions. The goal of the analysis was to provide an understanding of how well the property and its extant resources reflect their character and appearance during the period of significance. One of the byproducts of the comparative analysis is an inventory of resources that survive from the period of significance. These are referred to as contributing features. Resources that originated after the period of significance are also inventoried, but designated as non-contributing. The CLR also identifies features that are missing from the period of significance, and those for which a determination has not yet been possible.

The final section of the chapter provides an assessment of the property's integrity and summarizes to what degree the property retains its ability to convey conditions during the identified period of significance.

National Register Level Evaluation of Significance

National Register Status of Mount Gilead

Mount Gilead is not currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. As part of this CLR, John Milner Associates (JMA) has considered the Mount Gilead property for its eligibility for the National Register. The specific contexts that were investigated in order to prepare this evaluation of the property's significance include:

- the architecture of the Mount Gilead House as representative of local vernacular building styles using local materials;
- the status of the house as one of the oldest standing residences within western Fairfax County;
- the role of the property within the early history of the community of Newgate and in the succeeding town of Centreville;
- the role of the property in the Civil War;
- Colonial Revival-era restoration and development of the property;
- the architecture of the Spindle House, constructed from a Sears, Roebuck & Company kit; and
- the potential of the property to yield information important to significant historic contexts such as the Civil War, early settlement, and architecture.

In order to explore these contexts, JMA has reviewed information available about similar properties in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) records, previous planning and cultural resource assessment documents relating to the community of Centreville, and secondary sources that address the historic context issues listed above. The pages that follow present a preliminary evaluation of significance that is consistent with a National Register nomination.

Evaluation of Significance

Mount Gilead appears to possess state level significance under Criteria A, C, and D of the National Register of Historic Places in the areas of Historic Archaeology, Architecture, Military History, and Community Development/Planning during the period ca. 1785-1937.¹

Historic Contexts

Architecture of the Mount Gilead House, ca. 1785

The Mount Gilead residence was one of the earliest buildings to be established within the community of Newgate, precursor to the town of Centreville, and is the only dwelling to survive from that community. It is also one of the oldest standing residences within western Fairfax County. Originally serving as a tavern, Mount Gilead was constructed ca. 1785. In 1792, it became part of the new town of Centerville, later Centreville, which evolved from the nearby settlement of Newgate. Although Centreville maintained an

¹ In accordance with the National Register, the significance of a property may be determined based on its association with one or more of the following criteria:

- A. An event or a series of events that have made a significant contribution to our history;
- B. The lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. Embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or representing the work of a master, or possessing high artistic values, or representing a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. Yielding, or likelihood of yielding, information important in prehistory or history.

active industrial base and served as a regional trade center, expansion of major roads and railroads that bypassed the town eventually led to its decline as travelers focused their routes elsewhere. During the 19th century, Centreville slowly declined due to the loss of business from travelers. Mount Gilead, once a stopping place along one of the main routes through the area, was eventually adapted as a residence once its commercial use as an inn was no longer viable.

Architecturally, Mount Gilead is an unusual local example of what has been called Potomac River Valley architecture, with porches on the front and rear elevations, two exterior gable-end chimneys, a steeply sloping roof, and second-story dormers.² Mount Gilead is constructed of local materials, using stone for the foundation and chimneys, and wood for framing members and floors. The original plan, with two symmetrically-placed doors, is also not unusual and has been said to reflect the building's use as a tavern. As there is no external indication that there was ever a partition between the doors, it is possible that the doors were used for entry into and egress from the main room of the tavern.

Development of the Community of Centreville, ca. 1740–1840

Centreville is one of a few remaining rural communities in Virginia that arose during the early to mid-18th century as towns or villages organized through formal establishment by state legislation in response to the growing system of inland road improvements and expansions to transport farm products to market. Villages otherwise typically evolved at stage stations and crossroads to offer goods and services to travelers. These small crossroads communities were usually only slightly more complex than the individual plantation complexes that had dominated the Virginia landscape during the 17th and early 18th centuries. Owned by individual patricians with large land holdings, they functioned like self-sufficient villages. Eventually, however, it became more necessary for the plantation or country estate owners to invest in the infrastructure that would enable their goods and products to reach larger markets. The wealthy owners began to hire road surveyors, regulate the centers of service and exchange to which the roads led, license the water mills and ordinaries or taverns that serviced travelers at crossroads, and advise the colonial legislature on where to site warehouses and ferries, as well as churches and courthouses.³

Turnpike companies were organized in the late 18th and early 19th centuries to build better roads and keep them well-maintained. In Virginia, the turnpike companies were incorporated by the General Assembly and sold stock to finance road construction. Of

² This was a term coined by Alvin Detwiler on restoring Mount Gilead. See Eugenia B. Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture* (Fairfax County, VA: Fairfax County Office of Planning, June 1973), 68. Further reference to Potomac River Architecture has not been located. Reference to the lack of evidence of a partition between the doors can be found in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 64. It is important to note that the dormers were added to the building in 1805 where they appear on a Mutual Assurance Record. They do not appear on the 1803 record, see Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 65.

³ Isaac Rhys, *The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1982), 30-35.

interest to the investors in the turnpike companies was the prosperity of villages along the roadways. Profits came from the collection of tolls and from the customers the turnpikes brought to ordinaries, stores, saddlers, blacksmiths, and similar businesses.

By 1790, Newgate was a busy crossroads community along the routes that led from Colchester and Alexandria to Warrenton and Winchester. To enhance the prosperity of the community, a few interested business-minded citizens pursued the official establishment of a town. Along with the town, they hoped to establish the District Court of Virginia at Centreville.⁴

The Virginia Assembly's Act of 1680 for Cohabitation and Encouragement of Trade and Manufacture had established the method for setting up a town.⁵ The practice was to appoint trustees who were given control over the land expropriated for the town, usually a site of fifty acres.⁶ In many cases, a courthouse was constructed as a means for conducting official business.

Appomattox was a town similarly established along a major turnpike but where the citizens wanted closer access to a courthouse to conduct their business. Centreville was not a courthouse town, but did function for a long period as a mercantile nexus on high ground in what was otherwise a rural area.

Centreville was the twelfth of thirty-one towns established by act of the Virginia General Assembly between 1740 and 1850 when the Virginia Constitution was adopted. Of these, very few have remained viable. Seven of the thirty-one towns have disappeared completely from modern maps. The rest, like Centreville, were villages. Many became rural centers for banking and the distribution of retail goods rather than manufacturing centers, thus reflecting the persistent agricultural character of Virginia.⁷

The Civil War, 1861-1865

Centreville played an important role in the Civil War activities associated with Northern Virginia, where the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and the Union Army of the Potomac faced each other numerous times over the early course of the war. The region, in fact, was one of the most heavily impacted regions of the country during the Civil War. The community of Centreville was important strategically to both armies due to its location along major turnpikes and rail lines, its elevated topography, and proximity to Washington, D.C.

Centreville was first occupied in May 1861 when Confederate Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard established his headquarters with 20,000 troops at Camp Pickens near

⁴ Fairfax Harrison, *Landmarks of Old Prince William* (Berryville, VA: Chesapeake Book Co, 1964), 318. In Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 39.

⁵ William Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large: Being a collection of all the Laws of Virginia from the first session of the Legislature in the Year 1619* (Richmond: University of Virginia Press, 1969).

⁶ Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 31.

⁷ Harrison, *Landmarks of Prince Williams County*, 661-662. In Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 38.

Manassas Junction. In anticipation of an advance of Federal troops on their location, fortified positions were established at Fairfax, Centreville, and Mitchell's Ford along Bull Run. By July, the Union Army had advanced to the position, occupying Centreville. Later, during the First Battle of Manassas, also referred to as Bull Run, Confederate troops prevailed, in part due to a well-placed cannon shot on the bridge over Cub Run just west of Centreville. Local buildings were utilized to shelter wounded troops after the battles of Manassas, including St. John's Episcopal Church, Centreville Methodist Church, and various private residences. The Confederates gained control of the region again after the First Battle of Manassas. In early October 1861, Confederate Brigadier General Joseph Johnston established fortifications on the high ground at Centreville and along Bull Run. Tradition suggests that General Johnston established his headquarters in the Mount Gilead House at this time.

The Confederates utilized the fortifications as a base for winter quarters for Johnston's 40,000 soldiers. As part of these efforts, drill grounds, artillery positions, and numerous log cabins were constructed, heavily altering the landscape of the area around Centreville. The winter quarters are said to have been extensive and well protected by earthworks. Over the course of the next five months, the troops appear to have denuded the Centreville landscape, using all available trees to build log huts and roads, and for firewood. In March 1862, the Confederate forces withdrew from their winter quarters and fortifications in Centreville, relocating to a position behind the Rappahannock. The Federal army assumed control over the site immediately after the Confederates had completed their departure. The Union Army maintained control of Centreville for the remainder of the war.

The area continued to witness military activity in the form of troop movements, skirmishes, and encampments throughout the remainder of the war. The only documented case of the fortifications around Centreville having been involved in active combat was during the Bristoe Station campaign in October 1863. In addition, Confederate ranger leader John Singleton Mosby conducted regular raids through the region. The region was so active that most residents chose to relocate away from their homes until after the war.

Centreville thus witnessed a tremendous amount of military activity and was closely associated with two important Civil War Battles, although it was not part of the battlefields of these battles. The archaeological evidence of military occupation of the Centreville fortifications that appears to exist on the Mount Gilead property is likely to yield important information about the life of both the Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War.

Restoration of Mount Gilead and the Colonial Revival Movement, ca. 1935-37

There are numerous buildings and features on the Mount Gilead property associated with a Colonial Revival-era restoration effort conducted in the 1930s. These include the garage, summerhouses, picket fence, and many of the ornamental plantings, including the boxwoods and other trees and shrubs around the house. These features are consistent with a national movement during the late 19th and early 20th century to revisit the values of the Colonial period by recalling its architecture and gardens. The restoration of Colonial

Williamsburg was at the forefront of the American consciousness at the time that Mount Gilead was restored. In fact, the owner of Mount Gilead involved in the restoration cited Williamsburg as a model for his efforts, tying the property to broader trends in historic preservation. Mount Gilead's Colonial Revival site design continues to be well represented on the property today.

Sears Kit Houses and the Architecture of the Spindle House, ca. 1918-1940

A second house located on the Mount Gilead property—the Spindle House—is likely eligible for listing in the National Register as a local example of modern building methods after World War I. The Spindle House was constructed in the early 20th century from a prefabricated kit sold by Sears, Roebuck & Company. The house continues to convey its original design elements and to reflect its early 20th century appearance.

Houses purchased from Sears were an innovation in relatively inexpensive housing made possible at the turn of the 20th century due to the availability of new materials and manufacturing methods. The kits were marketed as an affordable housing opportunity for families after World War I. They represented a 20th century response to increased consumerism made available through the rise of the mail order mass-merchandising catalogue company. The homes were typically delivered by railroad from Chicago. Following the stock market crash of 1929, the construction of these houses gradually declined until, in 1940, Sears printed its last *Book of Modern Homes*.

Although Sears, Roebuck & Company is often credited with inventing the mail-order kit house, it was the Aladdin Company of Bay City, Michigan, that began the practice in 1906. Kit houses were cheap, quick, and easy, but they also appealed to potential owners for their flexibility in design. Buyers could choose various styles—Sears provided a book of options—that they could mix and match according to their own taste. The catalogues also stressed flexibility in construction to appeal to customers. Sears would send all of the supplies necessary for construction to the customer via rail car—a typical house could fit into two boxcars—for assembly either by the new homeowner or a local contractor. A wide variety of styles, designs, and prices were offered; most tended to be less expensive than traditional building options.

One of the most popular models was the bungalow. This compact, affordable house first appeared as a vacation-style home in the 1880s, but later grew into an important primary residence-style housing type in cities and suburbs in the years before World War I. Bungalows were designed in accordance with a wide variety of types and styles, including Arts and Crafts, Spanish, Colonial, and English Tudor. The Spindle House on the Mount Gilead property is a Brentwood model, which was “a modern adaptation of a bungalow with an English flair.” Constructed ca. 1934, the Spindle House was occupied by a descendant of the family, Mrs. Wilma Geneva Gentry Spindle, until 1986.⁸

⁸ Pat Darr and Sharon DeBragga, Mountain View School printed as Centreville Community Network, “The Sears Kit House,” www.centreville.org (accessed February 4, 2005), in the Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library. Note: According to an article written by descendant Pat Darr, blueprints of the house remain in the possession of Mrs. Wilma Geneva Gentry Spindle.

Few Sears kit houses are registered as historic resources today, although approximately 75,000 are known to have been built around the country. Most are now considered historic due to the fact that they are more than fifty years old, and interest in expanding the knowledge base of these resources in support of identifying, evaluating, and registering prime examples of the style is growing. It is not easy to identify a Sears kit home; one method that has been identified, however, is locating a Sears' stamp on the wood members used in the attic or basement. The Spindle House retains design integrity and is a good example of the type that merits further investigation and evaluation.

Information Potential of Archaeological Resources

Much of the Mount Gilead property is likely to yield information important to our understanding of the Civil War occupation of Centreville by Confederate and Union forces in 1861 and 1862. While the information potential has been little compromised by construction-related disturbance, it is not currently known to what degree past relic hunting has interfered with the site's archaeological resources. Numerous historic maps survive that indicate the extent of the Civil War use of the area, including the Mount Gilead property. These maps could be used to direct investigations. The Mount Gilead property is also likely to yield important information about local life during the 19th and 20th centuries, including the operation of the tanyards and tavern on the property, and Mount Gilead's evolving use as a residence.

Known archaeological sites include the remnant earthen fortification located northeast of the house, the former summer kitchen just north of the dwelling, and the Adams tanyard near the collapsed Seding House.

Comparative Analysis

Introduction

A primary objective of this CLR is to evaluate the ability of the existing landscape to represent the identified period of significance. In order to better understand the relationship between the contemporary landscape as documented in Chapter Three, and the landscape that existed during the period of significance discussed above, this CLR includes a comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions. The analysis focuses primarily on extant features, including their period of origin, associations, and modifications over time. Also identified are important missing landscape features. The analysis has yielded four lists of feature types, including those that:

- survive from the period of significance (contributing resources);
- are missing, but existed during the periods of significance;
- pre-date or post-date the period of significance or are not character defining (non-contributing resources); or
- have yet to be determined.

The three primary goals for developing this information are to:

- understand which features contribute to each period of significance;
- serve as the basis for an integrity evaluation; and
- provide insight into the similarities and differences between historic and existing conditions that will contribute to the development of a well-grounded treatment plan for the cultural landscape.

Features that contribute to the significance of the Mount Gilead property are illustrated on *figure 4-1*. Features that are missing from the site today that are known to have existed during the period of significance are illustrated on *figure 4-2*. Missing features are highlighted in white and labeled on a 1937 aerial photograph. Photographic pairs comparing historic and contemporary views of similar features are featured at the end of this section in *figures 4-3 through 4-5*.

Comparison of Historic and Existing Conditions

Mount Gilead and Centreville during the late 18th century

Very little is known about the character and configuration of the Centreville landscape until the latter part of the 18th century. Early maps depict the network of roads in this rural part of the state, and deed records survive to identify property owners, the size of their holdings, and whether or not dwellings and outbuildings were located on the land, but this nonetheless yields little in the way of a detailed understanding about the character of the place.

Prior to the establishment of Centreville in 1792, it is known that a crossroads community—known as Newgate—arose along a rolling road that was known as the Mountain Road. Records indicate that the community included a mill, tavern, and a store, and served as a small mercantile center. Although some records indicate a date of origin as early as 1749, the Mount Gilead House is thought to have been constructed ca. 1785 within this crossroads community. The dwelling served as a tavern, and was located on the road to William Carr Lane’s mill near its intersection with the Mountain Road, also known as Braddock Road.

In 1792, Centreville was established through petition of the Virginia General Assembly. The town appears to have been named Centreville (*see figure 2-7*) due to the fact that it was located nearly equidistant from Leesburg, Middleburg, Warrenton, Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria. It was a planned community, platted as a series of 108 half-acre lots along a grid of roads over a 70-acre area. Each of the lots was to contain a dwelling house, at least 16 feet square, with a brick or stone chimney. What subsequently arose was a mercantile and industrial town with stores, ordinaries, blacksmith shops, and tanneries, surrounded by farms. Key to the community’s industrial activities was Thames Creek, a perennially flowing water source. Mountain Road was reoriented to conform to the grid of the town plat, and renamed Main Street.

Centreville arose to encompass many of the properties associated with Newgate, including Mount Gilead, Newgate or Eagle Tavern, Four Chimney House, and Wapping or Lane's Store. Most were sited along the centrally-located Main Street. Two roads paralleled Main Street—Adams and Jefferson—and seven cross streets ran perpendicular to Main: Alexander, Lane, Mary, Francis, Ralls, Keene, and Carr Streets. It appears that Keene, Francis, and Ralls were the only cross streets that witnessed regular use. Keene Street is known today as Mount Gilead Road. Ralls Street arose from the modification of an existing road—Cabell's or Caple's Mill Road—to conform to the community's grid. This survives in the abandoned road trace that runs between Mount Gilead and the Spindle House.

Some information is known about the features that characterized the community at this time. For example, Wapping or Lane's store was located a short distance from the current location of the Centreville Methodist Church. The Eagle Tavern is described in historic documents as neatly enclosed by fencing, and having various outbuildings associated with it. Four Chimney House, also known as the Grigsby House, was described as an impressive structure located at the northern end of Main Street. The two-story, wood-frame house was 46 by 30 feet in size, with four massive stone chimneys, and a stone foundation. It is thought to have been built between 1769 and 1787. The property included at least two outbuildings. Nothing is known about the types of vegetation associated with the community, although it is likely that various properties included vegetable gardens and possibly fruit trees. Much of the landscape was likely open, used for agriculture, or in woodlots harvested for fuel and construction material, or to graze livestock.

Features that survive today from this period include:

- Community of Centreville
- Mount Gilead House
- Braddock Road (Mountain Road, Main Street)
- Mount Gilead Road (Keene Street)
- Thames Creek and Dowling Branch (now mostly culverted)
- Springs

Mount Gilead and Centreville during the 19th century

Various primary and secondary source documents support an understanding of Centreville as it evolved during the early 19th century. These include Mutual Assurance records, turnpike records, deeds, newspaper accounts, maps, plans, and photographs. Despite all of these sources, it still remains relatively difficult to glean more than a broad-brush understanding of the character and configuration of Centreville and the Mount Gilead property during the 19th century.

During the early part of the 19th century, Centreville continued to grow and evolve as an industrial and mercantile center, but also suffered due to the establishment of new transportation systems nearby, including turnpikes and rail lines, that bypassed the community. Developments within the community included the addition of numerous new

dwelling and businesses. One of the biggest influences in Centreville's early 19th century development was Francis Adams, who constructed Havener House as a store and residence, a blacksmith shop, stable, and granary, and owned several other small houses occupied by laborers. Records indicate that in 1820 the Havener House was used as an inn—known as Willow Spring—and that the property was enclosed by a fence. Adams also owned a tan and currying building, and may have been the one to introduce the industry of tanning to the community. John Buckey is known to have operated Adams' tanyard located between the Havener House and the Harrison House outbuilding.

Adams also owned Mount Gilead beginning in 1789. The property remained in the family until 1837, and continued to be an important component of the community during this time. Mutual Assurance records in 1803 and 1805 indicate a well-developed property comprised of the main house, a kitchen, office, and at least three additional outbuildings. The kitchen structure is described in the records as located twenty feet to the north of the main dwelling, and 12 by 20 feet in size. The 1805 record indicates that a 9 by 32 foot shed addition was constructed in association with the house at that time. Additional information about Mount Gilead during the antebellum period suggests that the property included a large garden enclosed by a wooden fence, the "palings" of which are cited in an 1831 deed. Mount Gilead was sold to Alexander Grigsby in 1837, who rented out the property to Malcolm Jamesson. Given that the Four Chimney House is also known as the Grigsby House, Grigsby may have also lived in the area. Jamesson purchased the property in 1842, and it remained in the family until 1904. Jamesson is said to have been the last Centreville tanner. Malcolm Jamesson established a family cemetery on the property prior to his death in 1884.

An interesting feature of the 19th century Centreville landscape was its connection to two new turnpikes. Already located at the nexus of five important roads—Braddock Road, Road to Chantilly, Road to Fairfax Courthouse, Road to Blackburn Ford, Manassas Road, and Road to Bull Run—Centreville appeared poised to play an important role as a mercantile center along primary routes of travel (*see figure 2-14*). Developed ca. 1808-1828, the Warrenton Turnpike was one of these. The turnpike edged the community; the intersection of Main and Francis Streets coincided with the point at which the Warrenton Turnpike turned off of Braddock Road to the southwest.⁹ The choice business lots located at the intersection were owned by George Ralls and Francis Adams. One of the turnpike's toll gates was located at the southeast end of Main Street near Eagle (Newgate) Tavern, and the turnpike was administered by a board that included local resident Humphrey Peake. Unfortunately, however, construction of Little River Turnpike, with gentler grades, began to draw travelers away from the Warrenton Turnpike and Centreville in the mid-19th century. Later, railroad development elsewhere in the state also diminished the prominence of Centreville, and contributed to its slow decline prior to the Civil War.

Description of Centreville in an 1835 gazetteer suggests that Centreville was still a thriving community at that time. The article describes the community as boasting a population of 200, with thirty dwellings, one Methodist meetinghouse, two taverns, three

⁹ Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 32.

mercantile stores, one common school, a Sunday school, saddler, four boot and shoe manufacturers, one wheelwright, two blacksmiths, one cabinetmaker, two house carpenters, and one tailor (*see figures 2-17 and 2-18*). Some information exists to describe properties located within Centreville around this time, including the Mohler House, Harrison House, and Royal Oaks. Constructed circa 1840, the two-story frame and clapboard Harrison House, also known as the “Tanner’s House,” still stands at the corner of Main (Braddock) and Keene (Mount Gilead) Streets. It was purchased by the wife of Thomas Harrison, a Centreville blacksmith, in 1875. It backed onto a tannery owned by Daniel Harrington and abutted the lot housing the Adams tanyard. The Harrington tanyard was across Thames Creek from the Adams tanyard. The Harrisons are thought to have built the outbuilding that exists on the property today ca. 1875 to support the blacksmith operation. In addition to the fact that there was a spring on the property, the property had access to Thames Creek, which powered the tanyards. Spring-fed Thames Creek also provided the community’s drinking water.

Royal Oaks was located north of Main Street and east of Keene across from the Eagle Tavern, also known as the Eagle Inn and Newgate Tavern. The property is known to have included a tree-lined drive and a grove of large oak trees. The dwelling was said to be impressive, with a stone foundation, and two large, stone, end chimneys. Little else is currently known about the property, and the house is no longer extant. Constructed ca. 1830, the Mohler House was a wood-frame I-house similar to the Harrison House, with a side-gable roof and end chimney, and a full-width hipped roof porch. The dwelling was demolished in 1969.

Two churches were established in Centreville in the 1850s. St. John’s Episcopal Church was built in 1851 along Keene Street. It was destroyed during the Civil War and later rebuilt. The Centreville Methodist Church, also known as the Old Stone Church, was built in 1854 along Main Street across from the Havener House. It, too, was destroyed during the Civil War and later rebuilt.

The Civil War brought much military activity to the community of Centreville. Confederate troops, numbering in the tens of thousands, constructed winter quarters, in the form of wooden huts and tents, between October 1861 and March 1862. These were sited behind an extensive system of earthen fortifications built on the high ground. Local dwellings were used to house officers and served as temporary hospitals after the First Battle of Manassas. Havener House, for example, was used as an aid station, and St. John’s sheltered wounded troops. Centreville Methodist Church was used as a temporary hospital. Mount Gilead is traditionally thought to have served as the headquarters of Confederate General Joseph Johnston. In addition to these military additions to the landscape, the 1861-62 occupation and later troop movements within the area are known to have devastated the physical fabric of the town. First hand accounts describe the “perfect desolation,” how “ruins lie about...,” and “fences utterly swept away...scrub oak and pine springing up everywhere” (*see figures 2-23 through 2-29*).

Centreville witnessed an extremely slow recovery during Reconstruction. In fact, after the war, the town was described as having only about a dozen dwellings. Physical developments described in documentary sources include the rebuilding of St. John’s

Episcopal Church in 1867, construction of a new Centreville Methodist Church in 1870, establishment of the Utterback Store and post office along Braddock Road, and of a school for black children administered by the Freedman's Bureau with a teacher provided by the Friends' Aid Society in Philadelphia.

Features that survive today from this period include:

- Community of Centreville
- Mount Gilead House
- Jamesson family cemetery
- Braddock Road (Main Street)
- Mount Gilead Road (Keene Street)
- Thames Creek and Dowling Branch (now mostly culverted)
- Springs
- Civil War earthwork remnant
- Havener House
- Harrison House and outbuilding
- St. John's Episcopal Church (1867 reconstruction)
- Centerville Methodist Church (1870 reconstruction)

Mount Gilead and Centreville during the 20th century

During the 20th century, Centreville remained a quiet residential community. The Mount Gilead House was occupied by Penelope Jamesson until her death in 1904. At that time, a monument was erected in the family cemetery to commemorate all six family members interred therein. Little else is known about the property until the 1930s, although a photograph of the house in 1909 exists, showing picket fencing along its entrance, which still faced Main Street (*see figure 2-36*). A 1934 image indicates that the fencing was no longer present by that time, however (*see figure 2-42*). The house was purchased in 1935 by Alvin C. Detwiler, who restored the house, and established various new features that are consistent with Colonial Revival period additions to historic landscapes. He attempted to accurately restore the property, undertaking research into its history, and drawing upon the work at Williamsburg as a model. He documented many of his efforts, suggesting that he had, for example, taken woodwork from "the small house that once stood in the field to the east." The small house he referred to may have been the office described in 19th century Mutual Assurance Records. While he salvaged material from buildings that were either in disrepair or he chose to raze, including Newgate Tavern, Detwiler also added new structures to the property, most of which survive today. These include the garage and two summerhouses. He also reoriented the house to face Mount Gilead Road, and constructed the existing entrance drive. The addition of the new driveway is thought to have been a response to the series of small outbuildings that had been constructed along the public road that ran along the bottom of the vegetable garden and in front of the Havener House, providing a less than appealing approach to the house. He added boxwood gardens and other new plantings typical of the Colonial Revival style. A 1937 aerial photograph of the property indicates the presence of other features at that time that are no longer extant. These included a large fenced, shield-shaped garden south of house,

which also edged the public road, a parking court between the Mount Gilead House and garage, a road connecting Mount Gilead and Braddock Roads, and a row of evergreen shrubs enclosing smaller gardens around the house. Between 1937 and 1946, an ironwork fence was installed around the Mount Gilead property. New additions to the Mount Gilead landscape between 1952 and 1967 included a rose garden (no longer extant), a headstone marking the burial site of a family pet on the fringe of the Jamesson family cemetery, the existing concrete fish pond, and the allée of Southern magnolia trees along the entrance drive.

The Spindle House was constructed along Mount Gilead Road in 1934 from a kit ordered from Sears, Roebuck & Company. Features associated with the property that appear on a 1937 aerial that are no longer extant include an entrance drive, a row of trees, a garden space, and a hedgerow. The date of origin of the springhouse that exists today near the Spindle House is not currently known, but it was constructed at least ca. 1953. Two individuals appear to be buried on the property. The Park Authority is currently conducting investigations regarding these burials, described recently in an oral history interview as marked with marble slabs.

Information available about other Centreville properties during this time is less robust. It is known that Havener House was used as a store in the late 1910s. The entrance into the store was along Ralls Street, or Cabell's Mill Road—the currently abandoned road extending between the Mount Gilead and Spindle Houses. The house later served as a post office before being extensively rehabilitated in 1933 to its original use as a store and residence. The Chambliss Law Office, which survives today, was completed ca. 1914. This two-story, three-bay vernacular I-house of frame construction is clad in German lap siding, and sits on a low stone foundation. It features gable-end returns and two interior-end brick chimneys, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows, louvered wooden shutters, a plain frieze board, capped corner boards, and a rear two-story ell with interior-end chimney. The structure, also known as the Hickory Stitch building, is a twin of the 1918 Utterback House, also known as the Long and Foster building. Both were built by W.F. Utterback within Centreville and survive today.

During World War II a German prisoner of war camp—Camp Washington—was built in Centreville near the intersection of Routes 50 and 29 and housed 100 prisoners. No evidence of this camp survives. A large Civil War-era fortification was lost in the 1940s when a new shopping center was built at the intersection of the Lee Highway and Old Centreville Road. Twentieth century features that survive include an addition to the Centreville Methodist Church built ca. 1944-45, Payne's Store constructed in the 1930s on the corner of Lee Highway and Braddock Road, and the parish hall for St. John's Episcopal Church built ca. 1956-57. A 1953 aerial shows the presence of the recently collapsed Sedinger House near the old Adams tanyard site, and the Swortzel House along Mount Gilead Road at some point after 1937. This dwelling is no longer extant. In 1986, the Centreville Historic Overlay District was established.

Features that survive today from this period include:

- Community of Centreville
- Mount Gilead House
- Mount Gilead garage
- Mount Gilead summerhouses, picket fencing
- Boxwood plantings
- Entrance drive with Southern magnolia allée, stone pillars
- Jamesson family cemetery
- Braddock Road (Main Street)
- Mount Gilead Road (Keene Street)
- Thames Creek and Dowling Branch (now mostly culverted)
- Springs
- Civil War earthwork remnant
- Havener House and barn
- Harrison House and outbuilding
- Chambliss Law Office
- Utterback House
- St. John's Episcopal Church (1867 reconstruction)
- Centerville Methodist Church (1870 reconstruction)
- Spindle House
- Spindle springhouse

Inventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Contributing Resources

- Thames Creek
- Spring
- Mount Gilead front yard
- Mount Gilead back yard
- Jamesson cemetery
- Tanyard site
- Spindle House area
- Views of Mount Gilead House from driveway/gate
- View of St. John's Episcopal Church
- Linear view along driveway
- Residential land use
- Civil War earthwork
- Crushed stone entrance drive
- Former entrance drive trace

- Ornamental plantings
- Cemetery plantings
- Walnut grove
- Mount Gilead House
- Mount Gilead garage
- Spindle House
- Springhouse
- Sedinger House ruins (on Tanyard site)
- Summerhouses (2)
- Square stone pillars (5)
- Gate
- Cemetery features: iron fence, obelisk, six head- and footstones
- Picket fence
- Wire fencing

Mount Gilead Missing Features

- Mount Gilead summer kitchen
- Mount Gilead office building
- Three (to six) wooden outbuildings
- Mount Gilead original entrance drive
- Tanyard near Spindle House
- Confederate winter encampment features
- Ralls Street
- Boxwood hedge lining driveway circle
- Parking court between Mount Gilead House and garage
- Large shade trees around Mount Gilead House
- Hedge south of Mount Gilead House
- Vegetable garden south of Mount Gilead House
- Row of trees on Spindle property

Mount Gilead Non-Contributing Features

- Woodland area
- Views of adjacent development
- Research land use
- Mulch trail through woodland
- Successional woodland
- Southern magnolia allée
- Boundary buffer or screen plantings
- Contemporary storage shed
- Boundary fence (chain link, wood rail)
- Interpretive sign

- Concrete pond
- Chain-link fencing
- Grave marker “Krista” in Jamesson family cemetery, marking family pet burial in 1960s

Centreville Historic Overlay District Contributing Features

- Braddock Road (formerly Main Street)
- Mount Gilead Road (formerly Keene Street)
- St. John’s Episcopal Church
- Centreville Methodist Church
- Havener House, spring
- Harrison House and outbuilding
- Utterback House
- Chambliss Law Office
- Thames Creek
- Dowling Branch

Centreville Missing Features

- Royal Oaks House
- Original St. John’s Episcopal Church
- Original Centreville Methodist Church
- Confederate winter encampment features
- Francis Adams’ blacksmith shop, stable, granary
- Newgate/Eagle Tavern
- Buckey’s/Harrington tanyard
- Centreville Academy
- Francis Street, Adams Street, Jefferson Street
- Toll gate associated with Warrenton Turnpike
- Grigsby House (also known as the Four Chimney House)
- Mohler House
- Wapping or Lane’s Store
- Military railroad to supply Centreville during the Civil War
- School established by Freedman’s Bureau after the Civil War
- Road to Chantilly
- Road to Fairfax Courthouse
- Road to Bull Run
- Road to Blackburn Ford

Integrity Assessment

Introduction

National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* states that

integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance... Historic properties either retain integrity (that is convey their significance) or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register criteria recognize seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity.

To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey significance. Determining *which* of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant.¹⁰

Assessment of integrity is based on an evaluation of the existence and condition of physical features dating from a property's period of significance, taking into consideration the degree to which the individual qualities of integrity are present. The seven aspects of integrity included in the National Register criteria are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As noted in Bulletin 15:

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred; **design** is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property; **materials** are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property; **workmanship** is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory; **feeling** is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time; and **association** is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.¹¹

Mount Gilead Integrity Assessment

Based on a comparative analysis of historic and contemporary conditions associated with the Mount Gilead property, the site's cultural landscape appears to possess integrity for

¹⁰ National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1990, rev. 1997), 44.

¹¹ National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 15, 44-45.

the period of significance that extends between ca. 1785 and 1937. The assessment conveyed below focuses on comparing existing conditions with the end date of the period of significance, 1937, due to the availability of a detailed aerial photograph. Wherever possible, historic maps and photographs have been utilized, however, to develop an understanding of the landscape prior to 1937 in support of this integrity assessment.

Mount Gilead retains **integrity of location** as the property where the house was first constructed and used as a tavern, and continued as the possible headquarters for General Johnston during the Confederate occupation of Centreville. The property also retains integrity of location as the site of Colonial Revival restoration of the property in 1937. The size and configuration of the property and its boundaries have changed since 1785, however, slightly diminishing its integrity of location. The current 6-acre parcel is only a portion of the original property. In 1937, the Mount Gilead site did not include the Spindle and Sedinger House parcels.

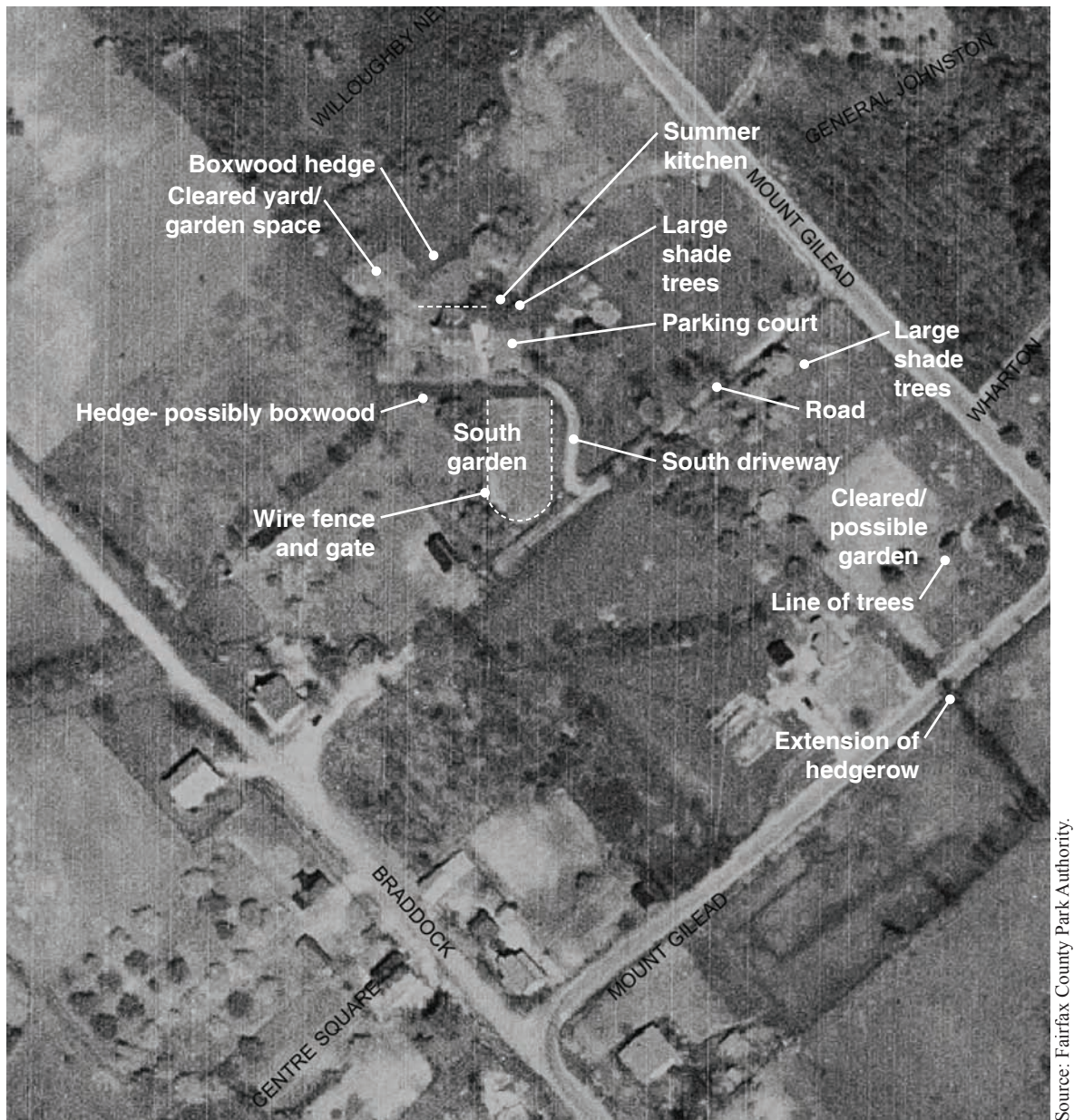
The site also retains **integrity of design** for the latter part of the period of significance, continuing to reflect the Colonial Revival-era restoration undertaken ca. 1937. Many of the ornamental plantings established during the early 20th century appear to be in decline, and buildings such as the garage are in a precarious state of repair, slightly diminishing the integrity of design of the property.

Mount Gilead retains **integrity of materials and workmanship** primarily for the Colonial Revival-era portion of the period of significance. Again, condition-related problems threaten the property's integrity of materials and workmanship.

Due to the numerous efforts to screen incompatible views, the property continues to possess **integrity of setting**. Despite the more heavily wooded character of the property margins, this vegetation serves to diminish the potentially negative impact of incompatible views of adjacent contemporary development features. The visual buffering of the property's boundaries thus contributes to integrity of setting, although the fact that the property originally featured commanding views of the surrounding area is no longer discernible, diminishing its integrity of setting.

The site retains **integrity of feeling** due to the open garden-like character of the Mount Gilead House environs, buffered from views of surrounding development by dense vegetation. The character of the Colonial Revival-era features continues to convey the feeling of an early 20th century residential property.

Finally, Mount Gilead retains **integrity of association** for its early settlement, Civil War, and Colonial Revival-era phases of development due to the continued presence of features dating from these periods.



Source: Fairfax County Park Authority.

Missing Features Mount Gilead Property

Figure 4-2



Not to scale.



Source: Smith, Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture.

Figure 4-3A: View southeast toward Mount Gilead, ca. 1950. (c1950_Moun G_9)



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2005.

Figure 4-3B: The same view, 2005. (80_Mt-gilead-comp)



Source: Library of Congress.

Figure 4-4A: View southeast along Braddock Road towards the Centreville Methodist Church, ca. 1861. (ad30025v)



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2005.

Figure 4-4B: A similar view, 2005. (76_Methodist-comp)



Source: Smith, Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture.

Figure 4-5A: View southeast toward the Havener House, ca. 1907. (1907 Havener House)



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2005.

Figure 4-5B: The same view, 2005. (77_Havener-comp)